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Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 April 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

Contents

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2017/L.14)

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2017/49)

Draft decision E/2017/L.14: Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

1. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), read out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with draft decision E/2017/L.14 in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Recalling a number of relevant resolutions and having considered the letter dated 20 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, were the Council to decide to appoint the Permanent Representative as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the support to be provided to the additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in 2017 would amount to $2,500, consisting of airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses related to travel for scheduled missions. The Secretary-General had advised that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required.

2. **Mr. Blanchard** (Observer for Canada), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.14, said that the request to appoint Belize as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti had been supported by every member of the Group. As a regional partner with a long-standing commitment to the economic, social and political development of Haiti, Belize would make a positive contribution to the Group's work.

3. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Trinidad and Tobago had joined the sponsors of the draft decision.

4. *Draft decision E/2017/L.14 was adopted.*

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations (E/2017/32 (Part I)*, E/2017/L.16 and E/2017/L.17)

5. **Ms. Amadeo** (United States of America) said that civil society should be given a voice to participate in the United Nations system through the accreditation process overseen by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. As Governments should not be all things to all people, optimal outcomes would be achieved only with the help of civil society partners. Regardless of their views, civil society representatives should have a voice, thereby reflecting the plurality of voices that constituted the foundation of a free society. She expressed concern at the systematic action taken by some Governments to suppress the legitimate activities of civil society and, in particular, human-rights defenders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and journalists. Even more disturbingly, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations appeared to be following suit, having voted to ignore a Council resolution that stipulated that the NGO concerned should be given written reasons for a decision to recommend suspension or withdrawal of status, and even failing to notify organizations of their suspension and to give them an opportunity to respond. Her delegation hoped to ensure that the Committee would abide by the rules and procedures of its parent body. She expressed support for draft decision E/2017/L.16 on granting Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status and E/2017/L.17 on webcasting the proceedings of the Committee, which remained the sole subsidiary body of the Council not to do so. Webcasting would bring much-needed transparency to the Committee's accreditation process and benefit those representatives of NGOs unable to attend meetings on location and the Organization as a whole, given the vital nature of NGO support for the United Nations.

6. **Mr. Jürgenson** (Estonia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the Council's scrutiny of the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was an important safeguard and should encompass the manner in which the Committee discharged its functions, including compliance with Council resolution 1996/31, which set forth the rules governing the granting of consultative status to NGOs. The Committee was responsible for determining whether the work of an organization fell within the Council's competence and whether its aims and purposes were in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. By any measure, the Committee was falling short in the discharge of its duties, having rejected a significant number of NGO applications on spurious or politically motivated grounds at its most

recent session. After diligently responding to over 80 questions concerning its activities, the respected organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide had had its application for consultative status rejected in 14 Committee sessions over seven years. He called upon the Council to redress that wrong by taking a decision to grant the organization consultative status.

7. The Committee's practice of holding votes to override established rules on an ad hoc basis undermined key principles and safeguards established by the Council and gave cause for concern, as did the aversion of some Committee members to improved transparency. It was all the more important that a body charged with deliberating over the presence of civil society at the United Nations was itself seen to be open and transparent. By permitting the webcasting of its proceedings, the Committee would see that organizations from developing countries that aspired to a greater role in the United Nations were empowered to witness the deliberations that determined their fate. The European Union therefore supported the resolution on webcasting. Lastly, inadequate space was given to civil society voices during the Committee's proceedings; rather than waste precious time debating whether NGOs should intervene during the Committee's session, their participation should be an accepted fact. Steps must be taken to restore the credibility and integrity of the Committee, through the Council's vigilance and a new spirit among Committee members to conduct their duties in a fair and transparent manner.

8. **Ms. Grigoryan** (Observer for Armenia) said that at its last session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had once again fallen short of an appropriate standard of impartiality and transparency by continuing to fail to give fair consideration to the applications of a number of organizations, particularly those submitted by Armenian NGOs. Her delegation had expressed its objections to that persistent state of affairs and agreed that inadequate space was given to the voices of civil society at the Committee's proceedings. While every Committee member had the right to pose questions to organizations seeking consultative status, as far as applications from Armenian non-governmental organizations were concerned, membership in the Committee had been abused in a manner that undermined the purposes and reputation of the Organization and sent the wrong message to civil society. She reiterated her Government's objection to artificial obstructions to granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations and underscored the importance of ensuring impartial and transparent working methods for the Committee.

9. **Mr. Torbergsen** (Norway) said that his delegation was alarmed by the shrinking space and restrictions facing civil society in many parts of the world and the concurrent lack of NGO access at the United Nations. All too often, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations failed to recommend consultative status for NGOs for reasons that had far more to do with political motivations than with the principles outlined by Council resolution 1996/31. Norway was seriously troubled by the Committee's readiness to set aside the rules of procedure established by the Council, as well as by the lack of transparency that characterized its activities. Moreover, it regretted the Committee's unwillingness to allot time and space to hear from civil society directly during its proceedings. His delegation strongly supported steps taken by the Council to ensure that the Committee conducted its functions appropriately.

10. **Ms. Carrión** (Observer for Uruguay), speaking also on behalf of Chile and Mexico, said that civil society contributions were indispensable in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other United Nations objectives. Given its important role of creating spaces for NGOs within United Nations activities, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had a responsibility to discharge its duties effectively. However, the fact that 70 per cent of NGOs with a human-rights focus had their applications deferred systematically for reasons with no basis in the questions asked of them by the Committee was particularly alarming. The criteria for granting consultative status must therefore be restricted to their demonstrably independent, pluralistic, democratic and representative character, the compliance of their objectives with the purposes and principles of the Charter and their contribution to the work of the Council.

11. Civil society and NGOs had justifiable concerns regarding the functioning of the Committee. As a corrective measure, States committed to pluralism and promoting the integration of civil society into United Nations activities should therefore be encouraged to become Committee members. Adoption of the draft decision on webcasting the Committee's public meetings would enhance the body's effectiveness and accountability.

Draft decision E/2017/L.16: Application of the non-governmental organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

12. **Mr. Rycroft** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.16, said that Council members were aware that the Sustainable Development Goals would only be achieved through the concerted efforts of multiple stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, which brought energy, expertise and fresh perspectives to the work of the United Nations. The aim of the system in place to review NGO applications for consultative status — governed by Council resolution 1996/31, which set out the role of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations — should be to enable, not frustrate, the participation of productive, professional civil society organizations. That system was clearly not working properly when a serious and credible NGO like Christian Solidarity Worldwide was kept waiting in limbo for seven years, responding in good faith to the more than 80 questions and undertaking bilateral consultations with every Committee member, to no avail.

13. Christian Solidarity Worldwide clearly fulfilled every requirement set out in resolution 1996/31; its work was directly relevant to that of the Council and it abided fully by the Charter and international human-rights instruments. Moreover, the organization worked actively to promote the aims and purposes of the Charter and train other civil society partners to work within the United Nations system. Its advocacy for the rights of all peoples to practice their faith as well as for the rights of people who professed no religion constituted vital work. His delegation could only conclude that the Committee's decisions had not been based on the merits of the organization's application, a concern widely shared and expressed to the Council by Nobel laureates, dignitaries and United Nations special rapporteurs. The Committee's repeated arbitrary deferrals contravened the principles of non-discrimination, equality, participation, transparency and accountability set out in resolution 1996/31. Sadly, Christian Solidarity Worldwide was not the only NGO singled out for repeated deferral by the Committee; NGOs with a human rights focus — an essential component of societies that were secure, prosperous and resilient against extremism — had faced discrimination on several occasions. It was crucial for NGOs granted consultative status to reflect the full spectrum of issues of concern to the Council and the Organization as a whole, including the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. Christian Solidarity Worldwide had waited too long for accreditation. In the light of the positive impact its engagement would make, his delegation and the other sponsors had put forward the draft decision to grant it consultative status. By adopting it, Council members would send an uplifting message about the value of NGO engagement and the promotion of human rights.

15. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Guyana, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden had had joined the sponsors of the draft decision.

16. **The President** said that the delegations of China and Pakistan had requested a recorded vote on the draft decision.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

17. **Ms. Bird** (Australia) said that as a long-standing supporter of civil society participation in United Nations processes, Australia remained concerned that the rules and procedures set out in Council resolution 1996/31 had not always been applied in the spirit originally intended and had been misused to prevent certain NGOs from gaining consultative status. Christian Solidarity Worldwide had had its application rejected for the fourteenth time at the most recent Committee session despite meeting all relevant criteria and responding to endless questioning over seven years. The Council must therefore rectify the situation and take action to grant Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status. For its part, the Committee must henceforth follow due process and established rules when considering applications for consultative status and discharging its duties.

18. **Mr. Warraich** (Pakistan) said that as a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, his delegation had been privy to the discussion on the application submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Pakistan had voted against granting that organization consultative status since it believed that it was the prerogative of any Committee member to seek clarification and additional information on the activities of a given organization, and that the organization in question was bound to provide them in good faith. Christian Solidarity Worldwide was not the only organization whose application had been subjected to scrutiny, and many other organizations had persisted. His delegation objected to the apparent value judgment of Committee members' intentions in posing questions, a judgment implied by the request for the vote on the application of Christian Solidarity Worldwide during the

Committee's session. The length of an application did not grant it additional merit. Furthermore, seeking reversal of the Committee's decision would undermine its mandate and set a dangerous precedent. For those reasons, Pakistan had requested a vote on the draft decision introduced by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

19. **Ms. Diedricks** (South Africa) said that her Government upheld its own constitutional provisions enshrining the right to freedom of religion and belief. South Africa supported civil society participation within the United Nations system in accordance with the procedures set out in Council resolution 1996/31. Both Member States and non-governmental organizations were required to abide by the resolution without prejudice or preference. Furthermore, each Committee member had the right to raise any query on applications under consideration. NGOs were given the opportunity to respond to those queries. Her delegation had serious concerns about attempts to undermine those provisions by overturning Committee decisions, thus preventing the Committee from conducting its work responsibly and in a consensual, orderly manner. Her delegation would therefore maintain its principled position of voting against the draft decision.

20. **Mr. Nguyen** Duy Thanh (Viet Nam) said that his delegation had followed closely the Committee's discussion of the application for consultative status submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide. The Committee should be given more time to carefully review that application and address its own legitimate concerns, which Viet Nam shared. His delegation would therefore vote against the draft decision.

21. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that while China supported the role of NGOs in United Nations activities, their participation should be governed by established rules, specifically Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulated that organizations wishing to obtain consultative status must first abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Committee retained the right to raise questions and request more information. In that connection, he wondered whether Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which, as some delegations had suggested, had been applying for consultative status for several years, had made genuine efforts to respond to every question raised by Committee members. If not, it meant that the organization lacked full respect for the Committee. Noting the insistence by some delegations that the General Assembly should respect the Human Rights Council, he cautioned all members against applying double standards and stressed the need to apply the same criteria throughout the Organization as a whole.

22. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2017/L.16.*

In favour:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Burkina Faso, China, India, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Iraq, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates.

23. *Draft decision E/2017/L.16 was adopted by 28 votes to 9, with 12 abstentions.*

24. **Mr. Shulgin** (Russian Federation) said that States had the inalienable right to receive information from NGOs concerning their activities, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. In keeping with his delegation's traditional stance in support of the recommendations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which had decided against granting Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status, it had voted against the draft decision. Only the Committee had the necessary opportunities to closely examine the requests of organizations wishing to receive consultative status. Attempting to reopen the Committee's recommendations undermined trust in its work, an approach the Russian Federation could not endorse.

Draft decision E/2017/L.17: Improving the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

25. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

26. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.17 also on behalf of Mexico and Uruguay, said that the draft decision was a practical way to make the important work of the Committee more accessible to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, especially organizations

from developing countries that were unable to travel to Headquarters.

27. His delegation had brought up the issue of webcasting multiple times in the Economic and Social Council and had likewise attempted to discuss it informally in the context of the Committee's consideration of its working methods, without success.

28. The draft decision would enable the Committee to fulfil the mandate handed down by Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulated that "the Committee, in considering applications for consultative status, should ensure, to the extent possible, participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, and particularly from developing countries, in order to help achieve a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world." Adopting the decision to webcast the public sessions of the Committee would increase transparency and align its practices with those of all other subsidiary bodies of the Council.

29. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland had joined as sponsors.

30. **The President** said that the delegation of China had requested a recorded vote on the draft decision.

31. **Ms. Bird** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and Switzerland, said that the participation of civil society was essential to the work of the United Nations, as it contributed valuable expertise and insight that improved the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of the Organization. Engagement by civil society in United Nations processes was key to improving the legitimacy of the Organization.

32. Her delegation welcomed the draft decision to bring webcasting to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations as a practice that would increase the transparency and accountability of the Committee and ensure greater participation from the global South, including from the Asia-Pacific region. Webcasting could moreover increase understanding of the Committee's operations and thus improve the standard of information provided by civil society applicants.

33. **Mr. Vieira** (Brazil) said that his country was a staunch supporter of open and transparent dialogue with society both domestically and internationally. It was also a candidate for the Committee elections to be held in 2018 for the period 2019-2023.

34. Webcasting the public meetings of the Committee was crucial to ensure that non-governmental organizations from developing countries, including Brazil, were able to follow deliberations on their applications for consultative status. Current arrangements placed an undue burden on the NGOs of the developing world that had neither representation at nor the funds to cover travel expenses to Headquarters. The draft decision would therefore increase transparency in the proceedings of the Committee and enhance civil society participation from developing countries.

35. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile) said that the Committee was the gateway for new voices from civil society to enter and contribute their knowledge and experience to the work of the United Nations. Unfortunately, the Committee had shown that it was unable to improve its working methods on its own, including with regard to the efficient management of new applications for consultative status: applications continued to pile up, with many being delayed for no apparent reason.

36. Webcasting could help to mitigate such deficiencies in the work of the Committee and facilitate long-distance monitoring of its work by NGOs in the developing world that could not attend meetings at Headquarters. It was lamentable that the entity whose job was to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the work of the United Nations was the one subsidiary body of the Council that did not webcast its public meetings.

37. **Mr. Rosselli** (Observer for Uruguay) said that as a member of both the Committee and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, his delegation believed that webcasting was necessary to increase the efficiency and transparency of the Committee's work, especially in a context where cooperation between NGOs and the Organization was increasing with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The transmission of public sessions would make the Committee's work more accessible, especially to NGOs in developing countries that could not travel to Headquarters.

38. It was unfortunate that the essential issues of transparency and efficiency were not met with consensus in the Committee. Despite having been informally discussed a number of times, the issue of webcasting had had to be brought before the Council.

39. While the Committee was responsible for monitoring the applications of NGOs for consultative status, civil society also had the right to know how those applications were evaluated. It was important to maintain the principle of good faith that underpinned international law. As defending transparency was an ethical commitment, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft decision.

40. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that although his delegation supported the practice of improving transparency, the way in which the draft decision had been tabled went against the principles of openness and transparency. In a surprise attack with political aims, the draft decision had only been circulated one day prior to the meeting and the request of members to conduct consultations on it had been rejected, leaving them with no time to study the document.

41. The decision to webcast the public meetings of the Committee should be considered when addressing the working methods of the Committee. Forcing a draft decision through before the Committee had reached consensus was counterproductive. Moreover, although the sponsors of the draft decision argued that it would be beneficial to NGOs in developing countries, many of the sponsors were not developing countries. His delegation would therefore abstain.

42. **Mr. Torbergsen** (Norway) said that his delegation was concerned by the lack of transparency that characterized the work of the Committee, especially as the principles of openness and transparency should be given priority when dealing with the presence of civil society at the United Nations. Norway welcomed the initiative to secure the webcasting of the Committee's meetings as a simple and practical step to increase transparency and improve accountability.

43. It was the responsibility of the Council to lay out rules and guidance for the Committee. As the Committee had discussed the issue of webcasting for several years without reaching consensus, the guidance of its parent body was warranted. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the draft decision.

44. **Ms. Diedricks** (South Africa) said that the Committee was the body to responsible for implementing the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and reviewing its working methods, as was the case for all other subsidiary bodies of the Council. Its decisions were always debated internally before being recommended to the Council, either by consensus or vote. During the Committee's regular session earlier in 2017, informal consultations had been held where it was determined that the Committee would comprehensively reflect on its working methods and how to improve their effectiveness during its formal resumed session scheduled to take place in June 2017.

45. It was therefore worrisome that the Council was prematurely undermining the work of the Committee by proposing a draft decision on a topic that the Committee had not yet discussed. It was unclear why the draft decision had singled out just one issue out of a list of many important topics requiring the Committee's consideration; the decision seemed to imply that the Committee was not competent to conduct its work.

46. Her delegation could not support the dangerous precedent set by the draft decisions and would instead continue to advocate for transparency, inclusivity and the respect of rules-based multilateralism.

47. **Ms. Gonzalez Tolosa** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that as civil society and NGOs provided essential contributions to the work of the United Nations, her delegation supported the spirit of the draft decision. It would nevertheless abstain from voting, in accordance with its belief that for all decisions put forth by the Council, it was necessary to be consistent with established practices and call on broad, constructive and transparent consultations with all members. The lack of prior open and transparent consultations on the issue went against the spirit of the United Nations.

48. To date, no formal discussion had yet taken place in the Committee on the question of webcasting its public meetings. The Council had therefore not respected the working methods of the Committee, which carried out its work in a responsible manner and in accordance with the criteria stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31. The Committee was scheduled to discuss its working methods at the beginning of its next resumed session.

49. The presentation of draft decisions on the working methods of the Committee by the Economic and Social Council without formal opportunities to discuss the matter beforehand set a dangerous precedent and weakened the mandate of the Committee to evaluate and agree on all issues relative to its working methods, which generally occurred by consensus.

50. *At the request of the representative of China, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2017/L.17.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, China, Mauritania, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

51. *Draft decision E/2017/L.17 was adopted by 37 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.*[1]

52. **Mr. Shulgin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had abstained because it did not support the consideration of Committee matters by an outside body. A temporary agreement had been reached to address the topic of webcasting during the resumed session of the Committee in May 2017. The matter should have been addressed at that time; the draft decision was therefore in violation of the prior agreement. It likewise violated the longstanding practice of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council of taking independent decisions concerning their own working methods.

53. His delegation seriously objected to the way the draft decision had been put to a vote without preliminary discussions. Adoption of the decision should not create a precedent with regard to the future consideration of the working methods of functional committees. In the future, the sponsors of the decision should work in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

54. **Mr. Nguyen** Duy Thanh (Viet Nam) said that although all United Nations bodies should benefit from the webcasting of their public meetings in order to ensure accountability and transparency, the Committee should be allowed sufficient space to fulfil its mandate. The Council should support its subsidiary body through open, transparent and timely communication.

55. His delegation was moreover concerned about the financial constraints faced by the Committee as its workload continued to increase. For those reasons, it had abstained from voting on the draft decision.

56. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that the draft decision would help NGOs, especially those in developing countries, to establish a closer relationship with the United Nations and thus strengthen the work of the Committee.

Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2017 regular session (E/2017/32 Part I)

57. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in Part I of the report.

Draft decision I: Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification from non-governmental organizations, as amended by the adoption of draft decision E/2017/L.16.

Draft decision II: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Kimse Yok Mu

Draft decision III: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfi (Journalists and Writers Foundation)

Draft decision IV: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Turkiye Isadamlari ve Sanayiciler Konfederasyonu

Draft decision V: Refrain from contacting or communicating with the three organizations whose legal status has ceased to exist and, based on that, whose consultative status was recommended for withdrawal at the first meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, held on 30 January 2017

Draft decision VI: Request for withdrawal of consultative status

Draft decision VII: Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2017 regular session

58. *Draft decisions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII were adopted.*

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2017/9)

59. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a

[1] The delegation of Nigeria subsequently informed the Council that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft decision.

four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2021.

60. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo had been endorsed by the Group of African States, while Algeria was a non-endorsed candidate; Afghanistan, India, Iraq and Kyrgyzstan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Croatia, Czechia and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Cuba had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were non-endorsed candidates from Western European and Other States.

61. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

62. *Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Croatia, Czechia, India, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Togo were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by acclamation.*

63. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from Western European and Other States exceeded the number of vacancies, she invited the Council to elect the five members from that regional group by secret ballot.

64. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Rits (Estonia) and Ms. Rodríguez Silva (Venezuela) acted as tellers.*

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Belgium	50
Australia	48
Canada	48
Switzerland	44
France	43
United Kingdom	33

65. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.*

66. **The President** said that the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was complete.

Statistical Commission (E/2017/9)

67. **The President** invited the Council to elect eight members to the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

68. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Egypt and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Peru had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

69. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from African States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

70. *Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Netherlands, Peru, Russian Federation and South Africa were elected members of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.*

71. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Statistical Commission, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the African States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

72. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Population and Development (E/2017/9)

73. **The President** invited the Council to elect 16 members to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-second session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2022.

74. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso and Mauritania had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh, China and Vanuatu had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Bulgaria and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Colombia and Haiti had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the United States of America had

been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

75. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

76. *Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Haiti, Mauritania, Russian Federation, United States of America and Vanuatu were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development by acclamation.*

77. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Population and Development, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from African States, one member from Asia-Pacific States and two members from Western European and Other States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-second session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2022.

78. *It was so decided.*

79. **The President** invited the Council to take action on outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Population and Development from Western European and Other States.

80. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Canada had been endorsed by the Group of Western European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2020, and Denmark had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session in 2021.

81. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

82. *Canada and Denmark were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development by acclamation.*

83. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for three outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Population and Development. They included two from Asia-Pacific States and one from Western European and Other States, all for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session in 2021.

84. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women (E/2017/9)

85. **The President** invited the Council to elect 13 members to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's sixty-third session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixty-sixth session in 2022. They included five members from African States, five from Asia-Pacific States and three from Latin American and Caribbean States. She informed the Council that a request had been made to conduct those elections by secret ballot.

86. **Mr Yao** Shaojun (China) asked which State had requested secret ballots, and why that procedure was being followed for certain subsidiary bodies but not others.

87. **The President** said that the United States had requested the secret ballots, in accordance with rule 68 of the Council's rules of procedure.

88. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) asked what the procedure was for responding to a request a secret ballot. He wondered what would happen after a request for a secret ballot if a counter-request were to be made.

89. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that the default procedure was to have a secret ballot. She read out rule 68 of the Council's rules of procedure, which stated that all elections were to be held by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Council decided to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

90. Algeria, Comoros, Congo, Ghana and Kenya had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; and Ecuador, Haiti and Nicaragua had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

91. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Tanchez (Australia) and Ms. Edwards (Guyana) acted as tellers.*

92. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

African States:	
Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Algeria	54
Comoros	53
Congo	53
Ghana	53
Kenya	53

93. *Having obtained the required majority, Algeria, Comoros, Congo, Ghana and Kenya were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Asia-Pacific States:	
Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Iraq	54
Republic of Korea	54
Japan	53
Turkmenistan	53
Saudi Arabia	47

94. *Having obtained the required majority, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan and were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Latin American and Caribbean States:	
Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Ecuador	54
Haiti	54
Nicaragua	52

95. *Having obtained the required majority, Ecuador, Haiti and Nicaragua were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

96. **The President** said that the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women was complete.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/9)

97. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

98. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania and Togo had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Afghanistan, China, Indonesia and Japan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Bulgaria and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Bolivia, Colombia and Uruguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

99. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

100. *Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, Russian Federation, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by acclamation.*

101. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from the African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

102. *It was so decided.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/2017/9/Add.4)

103. **The President** invited the Council to elect 21 members to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

104. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Côte d'Ivoire had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; and Germany had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

105. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

106. *Côte d'Ivoire, Germany and Russian Federation were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.*

107. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from African States, three members from

Asia-Pacific States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States and eight members from Western European and Other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

108. *It was so decided.*

109. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an outstanding vacancy on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. She had been advised that the Group of Eastern European States Group had endorsed Belarus to fill an outstanding vacancy for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018. She took it that in the absence of any other candidates, the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

110. *Belarus was elected a member of the Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.*

111. **The President**, urging the regional groups concerned to submit nominees for vacancies at the earliest opportunity, said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from African States, one member from Asia-Pacific States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States and eight members from Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2017; and for two members from Asia-Pacific State and two members from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018.

112. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund
(E/2017/9/Add.5)

113. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

114. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ghana and the Sudan had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Republic of Korea and Turkmenistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil and Colombia had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Greece, Iceland, Italy and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of West European and Other States.

115. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

116. *Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Sudan Turkmenistan and United States of America were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.*

117. **The President** said that the membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund was complete. The Council had also been informed that Denmark, Spain and Sweden were resigning their seats on the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Austria and Turkey to complete the terms of office of Denmark and Sweden, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018, and the Netherlands to complete the term of office of Spain, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

118. *Austria, the Netherlands and Turkey were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.*

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(E/2017/1/Add.1)

119. **The President** drew the Council's attention General Assembly resolution 71/171, in which the General Assembly had decided to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 98 States to 101 and requested the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional Members.

120. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Fiji, Lithuania and Paraguay were the candidates.

121. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

122. *Fiji, Lithuania and Paraguay were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by acclamation.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services (E/2017/9/Add.6)

123. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

124. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso and Egypt had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Cambodia and Saudi Arabia had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Antigua and Barbuda and Brazil had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Finland, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of West European and Other States.

125. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

126. *Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Egypt, Finland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office of Project Services by acclamation.*

127. **The President** said that the membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services was complete. The Council had also been informed that Australia, Germany and the Netherlands were resigning their seats on the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Canada to complete the term of office of Australia, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018, and Ireland and Luxembourg to complete the terms of office of Germany and the Netherlands, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

128. *Canada, Ireland and Luxembourg were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office of Project Services by acclamation.*

Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/2017/9/Add.7)

129. **The President** invited the Council to elect six members to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

130. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that said that China had been endorsed for List B, Guatemala had been endorsed for List C, Japan and the United Kingdom had been endorsed for list D and Hungary had been endorsed for list E.

131. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from Lists B, C, D and E was equal to the number of vacancies for each list, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

132. *China, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme by acclamation.*

133. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from list A for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

134. *It was so decided.*

135. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Swaziland was resigning from the Executive Board of the World Food Programme effective on the date of election, and Lesotho had been endorsed by the countries of List A to complete the term of office expiring on 31 December 2017; Mexico was resigning from the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017, and Colombia had been endorsed by the countries of List C to complete the term of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019; Finland and Spain were resigning from the Executive Board effective on 31 December 2017, and Norway and Greece had been endorsed by the countries of List D to complete the terms of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring 31 December 2019; and the Netherlands was resigning from the Executive Board effective on 31 December 2017, and New Zealand had been endorsed by the countries of List D to complete the term of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on

31 December 2018. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

136. *Colombia, Greece, Lesotho, New Zealand and Norway were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme by acclamation.*

Commission for Social Development (E/2017/9)

137. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Social Development.

138. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Congo and Senegal had been endorsed by the Group of African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020; Bulgaria and Romania had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and the Republic of Moldova had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-seventh session in 2019; France had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and Iceland had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020.

139. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

140. *Bulgaria, Congo, France, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Senegal were elected members of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.*

141. **The President** said that the Council had also been informed that the Republic of Moldova was resigning its seat on the Commission, and Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States to complete the term of office beginning from the date of election and expiring at the Commission's fifty-eight session in 2020. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

142. *Belarus was elected a member of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.*

143. **The President**, urging the regional groups concerned to submit nominees for vacancies at the earliest opportunity, said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for five outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Social Development. They included two from the Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and three from the Western European and Other States for two terms beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and one term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020.

144. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2017/9)

145. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. She had been informed that Mexico had been endorsed the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States, both for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

146. *Mexico and South Africa were elected members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development by acclamation.*

147. **The President** said that she took it that in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020.

148. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/2017/1/Add.1)

149. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Luxembourg were resigning from the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women effective on 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Finland, Canada and the Netherlands to complete the terms of office of Belgium, Denmark and France beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019, and Portugal and New Zealand to complete the terms of office of Germany and Luxembourg beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018. She took it

that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

150. *Canada, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand and Portugal were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by acclamation.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/2017/1/Add.1)

151. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an outstanding vacancy on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. She had been informed that Afghanistan had been endorsed the Group of Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020. She took it that, in the absence of any other candidates, the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

152. *Afghanistan was elected to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme by acclamation.*

153. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for seven outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. They included one from the Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020, and six from the West European and Other States, one for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018, two for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2019 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020.

154. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (E/2017/1/Add.1)

155. **The President** drew attention to Council resolution 2015/1 and invited the Council to elect one member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018. Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

156. *Sweden was elected a member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission by acclamation.*

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

157. **The President** reminded the Council of the outstanding vacancy on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from the Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2019.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.